



Forest Heights Police Department Policy and Procedures Manual

Subject:	Communicable and Infectious Disease Exposure			
General Order No.	2016-1	Effective Date:	January 1, 2016	
Chapter:	7	Section:	2	Replaces: GO 2000-66
Original Issue: 01/01/16		Dates Revised:		

A. Purpose

To establish guidelines for Forest Heights Police Department (FHPD) officers exposed to individuals known or suspected of having a communicable or infectious disease.

B. General Provisions

Communicable and infectious diseases or viruses; namely Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) which is caused by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) are of major concern to the law enforcement community. While police officers will receive in depth training on the transmission, prevention and treatment of blood borne diseases/viruses, this section is an overview of methods for self-protection and the responsibilities of the officers to prisoners known to have an infectious disease.

C. Notification of Exposure

1. When an officer experiences a communicable or infectious disease exposure, or if an officer is not aware of the exposure at the time of its occurrence, but is later made aware of such an exposure, the officer will submit an Incident Report (IR) through established channels to the FHPD Chief or, in his absence, adhere to the chain of command.
2. The officer, when reporting a communicable or infectious disease exposure, will be responsible to insure that the Case Control Number (CCN) and the officer's ID number are used on the IR, the MICU/ Ambulance Report and/or on the Hospital Admissions or Emergency Sheet. The officer's name will be omitted for the purpose of confidentiality.

D. Testing for HIV Exposure

1. The officer will wash exposed areas immediately as described in Subsection E. Infectious Disease Exposure Guidelines; then proceed to the nearest hospital for counseling and testing and medical advice.
2. HIV testing should only be done with pre-test and post-test counseling by a trained counselor because of the potential serious social and psychological consequences of a positive test. Counseling and testing are only necessary in certain cases.

E. Hospital Notification of Infectious Disease Exposure

Hospital Infection Control personnel have been notified that upon their discovery of a significant infection control incident, they are to immediately contact the Police Psychological Services, who will then contact the FHPD Chief.

F. Infectious Disease Exposure Guidelines

1. Needle Stick/Sharp Instrument Injuries

Officers who receive a needle stick or sharp instrument injury should allow the injury to bleed freely, then immediately wash copiously for at least 60 seconds, with any kind of soap and running water or other approved detergent or hand cleaner. Officers shall seek immediate medical treatment. The attending physician should be made aware of the circumstances surrounding the injury so he may determine the appropriate preventive treatment.

2. Mouth-to-Mouth Exposures

Officers should pay special attention to the use of disposable airway equipment, resuscitation bags or protective face shields. Officers, who perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on a victim of respiratory arrest, shall immediately respond to the location of the hospital where the victim was

Chapter 7 Section 2

transported. Officers should notify the attending physician of the incident so that a preliminary diagnosis, and possibly a diagnostic test may be performed to rule out the presence of infectious disease.

G. Specified Recommendations to Prevent Transmission

1. General Protective Barriers

- a. Hands - Wash hands with soap and water after caring for or handling a person with AIDS/HIV. If hands are contaminated with blood or other body fluids, wash promptly for at least 60 seconds with any type of soap and running water or other approved detergent or hand cleaner.
- b. Gloves - Disposable exam gloves should be worn when handling blood or other body fluids or open lesions (cuts, bruises, etc.) of persons with AIDS/HIV (or any other blood borne communicable disease) or when the officer has open wounds or sores on the hands. After gloves are removed, hands should be carefully washed.

2. Contact with Infected (or Possibly infected) Material

- a. Skin Contact - Wash affected area immediately for at least 60 seconds with any type of soap and running water or other approved detergent or hand cleaner.
- b. Surface or Object Contact - Any area within a building or vehicle that has been contaminated by blood or other body fluids will be cleaned with a detergent, then disinfected for 20 minutes with one freshly mixed solution of one part bleach and nine parts water. Officers responsible for the custody of the prisoner will ensure the contaminated area is not used until such cleansing is accomplished. Persons cleansing contaminated areas will wear disposable gloves.
- c. Clothing Contact- Contaminated clothing will be promptly cleaned in a normal wash/dry cycle or by dry cleaning. Disposable exam gloves will be worn when handling contaminated clothes.

3. Processing a Crime or Incident Scene

Officers will wear disposable exam gloves when processing the scene of any crime or incident where blood or blood contaminated items are present and must be handled. Coveralls should be worn if soiling of clothing by blood or other body fluids is likely.

4. Handling Contaminated Evidence

Contaminated, disposable articles (i.e., exam gloves, first aid articles, etc.) should be treated as infectious waste. Articles will be placed in a plastic bag, thoroughly soaked in a mixture of one part bleach to nine parts water, then placed in a second bag and disposed of in a proper trash receptacle.

H. Processing Prisoners with AIDS

1. Prisoners known to have AIDS or any other Infectious disease will be processed in accordance with established procedures outlined in appropriate sections of this manual. Prisoners with AIDS will be isolated from other prisoners for their own protection.
2. If custody of the prisoner is relinquished to another agency (e.g., sheriff's department, hospital, etc.), the arresting officer will notify the receiving agency, prior to the transfer, that the prisoner has AIDS.
3. This notification will only be given, to those with a need to know, thus ensuring the privacy and confidentiality rights of the prisoner.

I. Reportable Contact with Persons with AIDS/HIV

The following types of contacts with a person with AIDS/HIV will be documented on the appropriate County Police Crime Report or the Incident Report:

1. Any incident involving the exchange of blood or other body fluids of a person with AIDS/HIV.
2. Any needle sticks or sharp instrument injury, which breaks the skin.
3. The dousing of any mucous membrane with the blood or other body fluids of a person with AIDS/HIV.
4. Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation with blood/body fluid exposure.